

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193043
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JHGLENN:MEG
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
EA/PRCM:L.PASCOE
EUR/P:FSEIDNER
NSC:GTREVERTON(SUBSTANCE)
-----029300 010719Z /14

R 312249Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AL, US

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON ALLEGED US INTEREST IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH ALBANIA

1. JULY 30 NEW YORK TIMES CARRIED ARTICLE BY DAVID BINDER
STATING THAT "...THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING
WHETHER TO ATTEMPT TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST
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GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA..." THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED USG CON-
SIDERATION OF THIS ACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRC ON
JULY 13 THAT IT HAD HALTED MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO
ALBANIA.

2. THE ARTICLE ALSO BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED SOME FACTORS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINO-ALBANIAN RIFT, AND SPECULATED

ABOUT SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO REESTABLISH INFLUENCE IN ALBANIA
AND TO OBTAIN A NAVAL BASE THERE.

3. THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE F
WAS PREPARED FOR THE JULY 31 NOON PRESS BRIEFING (THE
MATTER WAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED ON JULY 31).

4. BEGIN QUOTE.

QUESTION: THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED ON JULY 30 THAT THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING OPENING DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT. IS THERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO THIS?
ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: HAS THE ADMINISTRATION
RECEIVED ANY INDICATION THAT THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT
WOULD WELCOME TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION
INDICATING THAT THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN
IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOING TO
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ASSIST AMERICANS IN DIFFICULTY IN ALBANIA?

ANSWER: THE UNITED STATES AND ALBANIA DO NOT MAINTAIN
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OF ANY KIND. ALTHOUGH THE ALBANIAN
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO DISCUSS THE WELFARE OF
AMERICANS IN ALBANIA WITH US, WE OCCASIONALLY HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF THIRD
COUNTRIES.
END QUOTE.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ICA'S WIRELESS FILE OF JULY 31 WILL
CARRY THIS ARTICLE.
VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 193043
ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JAMES H GLENN

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHAU/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 2731

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193043

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 193043 ACTION MOSCOW PRAGUE WARSAW
BERLIN BUDAPEST BUCHAREST SOFIA BELGRADE ATHENS PEKINGS
JULY 31.

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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193043

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CARRY THIS ARTICLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: b5f0e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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